Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An array storage system comprising:

a shelf defining a tubular closed passage with a frontend opening and a backend opening;[[,]]

a frontend partition ~~adapted for supporting a first component inserted~~ in the frontend opening;[[,]]

a ~~removable~~ backend partition that is removable from the shelf and is adapted for operably supporting a ~~second~~ component inserted in the backend; ~~,and~~

a backplane supported by a ~~removable~~ backplane support ~~adapted for~~ that is removable from the shelf, the backplane operably ~~supporting a backplane~~ engageable in electrical connection with ~~the first and second components~~ the component on one side of the backplane; and

a multiple device array comprising a carrier enclosing a plurality of data storage devices that are electrically connected to a common connector, whereas the carrier is operably slidingly engageable in the frontend partition toward the backplane to connect the common connector to the other side of the backplane, the multiple device array further comprising an alignment member extending outwardly from a leading end thereof to matingly engage the backplane at a first sliding disposition of the carrier in the frontend partition, thereby operably aligning the common connector with the backplane before contacting engagement occurs between the common connector and the backplane at a second sliding disposition of the carrier nearer the backplane.

2. (Original) The array storage system of claim 1 wherein the removable backend partition comprises the backplane support.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The array storage system of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the frontend partition is adapted for supporting a ~~third~~ second component different than the multiple ~~disc~~ device array.

5. (Currently amended) The array storage system of claim 4 wherein the ~~third~~ second component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

6. (Currently amended) The array storage system of claim 1 wherein the ~~second~~ component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

7. (Currently amended) The array storage system of claim 6 wherein the backend partition is adapted for supporting a ~~fourth~~ third component different than the ~~second~~ component.

8. (Currently amended) The array storage system of claim 7 wherein the ~~fourth~~ third component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

9. (Currently amended) A shelf comprising:

an enclosure defining a tubular closed passage with a frontend opening and a backend opening;[[,]]

a frontend partition adapted for supporting a first component inserted in the frontend;[[,]]

a removable backend partition adapted for supporting a second component inserted in the backend;[[,]] and

a ~~removable~~ backplane support fixed to the backend partition and adapted for operably ~~supporting~~ fixing a backplane to the backplane support ~~in electrical connection with~~ to support the backplane while removably connecting the first and second components to opposing sides, respectively, of the backplane.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The shelf of claim 9 wherein the first component comprises a multiple disc array.

12. (Original) The shelf of claim 11 wherein the frontend partition is adapted for supporting a third component different than the multiple disc array.

13. (Original) The shelf of claim 12 wherein the third component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

14. (Original) The shelf of claim 9 wherein the second component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

15. (Original) The shelf of claim 14 wherein the backend partition is adapted for supporting a fourth component different than the second component.

16. (Original) The array storage system of claim 15 wherein the fourth component comprises a component selected from a group consisting of a data storage device controller, a power supply unit, an interface unit, and a battery unit.

17. (Currently amended) A method for electrically connecting components comprising:

providing a shelf defining a tubular closed passage with a frontend opening and a backend opening~~, and a frontend partition adapted for supporting a first component inserted in the frontend opening~~;

attaching a backplane to a ~~backplane support~~ leading end of a backend partition;

~~removably inserting the backplane support in the backend opening;~~

inserting ~~a removable~~ the backend partition ~~adapted for supporting a second component inserted~~ in the backend opening;

inserting ~~the~~ a first component having an alignment member on a leading end thereof to a first insertion depth in the frontend opening ~~to electrically engage~~

~~the backplane~~ to matingly engage the alignment member with the backplane before electrically engaging the first component with the backplane;

inserting the first component to a second insertion depth greater than the first insertion depth to electrically engage the first component with the backplane; and

inserting ~~the~~ a second component in the backend ~~opening~~ partition to electrically engage the backplane.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

~~removing the second component from the backend opening;~~

removing the backend partition from the backend opening;

removing the backplane;

~~removably inserting~~ attaching a replacement backplane to the backend partition ~~through the backend opening~~;

replacing the backend partition ~~through~~ in the backend opening; and

~~replacing the second component in the backend opening~~.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the ~~removably inserting~~ attaching a replacement backplane step comprises ~~inserting and~~ attaching a characteristically different backplane.